

VZCZCXRO2827
RR RUEHAG
DE RUEHVL #0803 2401230
ZNY CCCCC ZZH
R 281230Z AUG 06
FM AMEMBASSY VILNIUS
TO RUEHC/SECSTATE WASHDC 0536
INFO RUCNMEM/EU MEMBER STATES COLLECTIVE
RUEHRC/DEPT OF AGRICULTURE WASHINGTON DC

C O N F I D E N T I A L VILNIUS 000803

SIPDIS

SIPDIS

WARSAW FOR FAS

E.O. 12958: DECL: 08/27/2016
TAGS: [EAGR](#) [ECON](#) [ETRD](#) [TBIO](#) [KPAO](#) [LH](#)
SUBJECT: LITHUANIA WILL STICK TO EU GUIDANCE ON RICE

REF: SECSTATE 137943

Classified By: Political/Economic Section Chief Rebecca Dunham for reasons 1.4 (b) and (d)

1. (C) Zenonas Stanevicius, Deputy Director of the State Food and Veterinary Service (SFVS), told us August 25 that Lithuania will adhere strictly to any EU guidelines regarding genetically engineered products, including rice. He said that U.S.-produced rice amounted to slightly less than one percent of Lithuania's rice consumption and that the SFVS was working to determine whether or not any LLRICE 601 entered Lithuania. He also said that Lithuanians, in general, held a decidedly negative attitude towards genetically modified food products. We emphasized that the USG was actively investigating the facts of this case and that both the U.S. Department of Agriculture and the U.S. Food and Drug Administration have evaluated this product and concluded that there are no health or environmental safety concerns associated with it.

2. (U) One local daily reported August 28 that the European Commission has decided "to test strictly" all long-grained rice exported from the United States to the EU to prevent any "unregistered" genetically modified versions from entering.
CLOUD